

Northern California News & Events



Blazing Fires Show Importance of Effective Forest Management

As we witnessed the recent fires on the Sites Complex and the Mendocino National Forest near Stonyford, wildfires have already consumed over 29,000 acres. Fires are also burning in Trinity County and in other northern California areas. The fires are a stark reminder that [we need to enact policies](#)

that can reduce the frequency, duration, intensity and cost of catastrophic fires on public land.

The bipartisan

[Quincy Library Group Pilot Project](#)

seeks to address the unhealthy conditions in our national forests to help prevent catastrophic fires in the first place and to restore our forests in a fiscally responsible and effective manner.



I have introduced [H.R. 3685](#) to reauthorize the program for ten more years, ensuring that the Forest Service has a stable and consistent period for fully implementing the pilot project. I'm pleased the House recently [passed this measure](#) as part of comprehensive legislation to promote a more commonsense approach to natural resource utilization.

House Passes Bill to Enhance Local Control over North State Natural Resources

The House recently passed [H.R. 1237](#), a bill [I introduced](#) at the request of the Trinity Public Utilities District (TPUD) to increase local control over natural resources in Trinity County. It authorizes a land exchange between TPUD, the Bureau of Land Management, and the U.S.

Forest Service, enhancing economic opportunities for nearby communities and making federal land management more efficient.



I spoke on the House floor in support of the legislation; you can listen to my speech [here](#) . The House passed the noncontroversial measure by voice vote. It now awaits consideration in the Senate.

Right Now



Action Needed to Avoid “Midnight Menace” Tax Hit

I recently wrote an opinion editorial expressing my strong concerns about the tax increase that is set to go into effect on all Americans on January 1, 2013. As I note, an average family of four with an income of \$50,000 could see a tax increase of almost \$2,200 next year. I also express my concerns with the President's tax proposal, which a study by Ernst & Young says could cost 700,000 more jobs. While you may have seen it in your local paper, I wanted to make sure it was brought to your attention. You can read it [here](#) .

House Votes to Audit the Federal Reserve

The U.S. House of Representatives recently took action to ensure greater oversight and accountability of the Federal Reserve. [With my support](#) , the House passed [H.R. 459](#) , the Federal Reserve Transparency Act, by a vote of [327-98](#)

. Under current law, there are restrictions that prohibit the nonpartisan Government Accountability Office from auditing all Fed actions. H.R. 459 would remove these restrictions. As a cosponsor of this important legislation, I welcome the strong bipartisan support on the House floor, and I urge Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid to bring it to a vote in that chamber.

Senator Feinstein Says White House Leaked Top Secret Intelligence

Senator Dianne Feinstein, Chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee, recently [made a startling observation](#) about the source of dangerous leaks of some of our nation's most highly classified intelligence to major newspapers. She declared her belief that some came "from the ranks" of the White House. I am very concerned that these leaks could endanger American lives, undermine ongoing covert operations, and aid our enemies. Those responsible for these reckless leaks have violated the national trust and should be brought to justice. Assuming that President Obama was not involved (either by personally speaking to the reporters or authorizing his staff to do so), he should make it clear that any and every White House aide responsible for these leaks will be fired and referred to the Justice Department for prosecution.

United Nations Arms Treaty Must Not Violate Second Amendment Rights

As part of [my ongoing efforts](#) to protect Second Amendment rights, I recently joined 130 of my fellow House members in [expressing my strong opposition](#) to potential provisions in the United Nations Arms Trade Treaty, which is currently being drafted, that infringe on Americans' rights or threaten U.S. security interests. The treaty would set forth international standards for importing and exporting conventional weapons. I share the concerns of a number of Northern Californians who are worried that this treaty could be used to undermine the constitutional right to bear arms. I will continue to closely follow the drafting of the treaty and alert you to any developments that may threaten the rights guaranteed to all law-abiding Americans by the Second Amendment.

Recent Past

Pond Scum Is Not an Energy Policy

I recently wrote an opinion editorial on energy prices that was published in the Redding Record Searchlight. I expressed my concern that President Obama's energy policy has been characterized by using tax-payer dollars to fund experimental energy sources while minimizing reliable energy sources, such as petroleum. you can read the op-ed [here](#) .

Supreme Court Upholds ObamaCare and House Passes Legislation to Repeal It

On June 28, the [Supreme Court ruled](#) that President Obama's health care law can be considered constitutional only if it is understood to violate the President's repeated promise that he would not raise taxes on middle-income Americans. I continue to believe that the Democrats' health care law both exceeds Congress's constitutional authority and is unaffordable and unsustainable. The Supreme Court's ruling, however, makes it clear that it is up to the people's

elected representatives to [overturn](#) this bad law. After the decision was announced, the House Representatives passed [H.R. 6079](#), legislation to repeal ObamaCare.



I was one of 244 members who voted in support of it and delivered a [speech](#) on the House floor in favor of it. I remain committed to fully repealing this bad law and replacing it with reforms that reduce costs and make health care more affordable without expanding the size of government.

Supreme Court Issues Ruling on Arizona Immigration Law

The Supreme Court ruled on [Arizona's immigration law](#), striking down three of the four contested parts of the law. It did, however, uphold the central plank in Arizona's law that allows police officers to check the legal status of someone they lawfully stop. In doing so, the decision fundamentally upheld the joint federal-state role on immigration enforcement that Congress intended. I strongly believe the Court was correct in ruling that the Administration cannot further weaken enforcement of our nation's immigration laws by completely handcuffing efforts taken by states.

House Holds Attorney General Eric Holder in Contempt over Stonewalling Fast and Furious Investigation

The House of Representatives voted to hold Attorney General Eric Holder [in criminal contempt](#) of Congress. I was one of [255](#) members who supported this bipartisan action. The Attorney General has repeatedly refused to cooperate with the congressional investigation into Operation Fast and Furious by releasing all related documents. The House of Representatives also passed a [civil contempt resolution](#), which will allow the House to bring a civil lawsuit in an effort to force the Attorney General to comply with the subpoena. I believe the American people should be able to learn the truth about an initiative responsible for the death of U.S. Border Patrol Agent Brian Terry and the distribution of over 2,000 weapons to members of drug trafficking organizations.

